

Wayne Allard

U . S . S E N A T O R • C O L O R A D O



For Release:
Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Contact: Sean Conway
(202) 224-6207
Jennifer Pellett
(202) 224-5936

ALLARD INTRODUCES “DOLLARS FOR CLASSROOM ACT” SAYS STUDENTS & TEACHERS DESERVE MONEY NOT BUREAUCRACY

Washington, D.C. — U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) has joined with U.S. Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-AR) to introduce the “The Dollars for Classroom Act.” The bill would require that at least 95 cents of every dollar in federal education spending for K-12 students reach the classroom. Currently only 65 cents of each dollar reaches students and teachers in the classroom, the other 35 cents is spent on administrative bureaucracy in Washington, D.C.

“It is an outrage that only 65 cents of every dollar we spend on education reaches the classroom,” Allard said. “The ‘Dollars for Classroom Act’ will change this injustice by requiring that at least 95 cents on every dollar we spend on education actually reaches students and teachers in the classroom.”

The legislation, if enacted, will require that beginning in FY 2001 that 95% of all federal educational block grants sent to each state be spent in the classroom. States would be allowed to spend only 5% for administrative costs. Currently, the Department of Education sends nearly \$3.5 billion on programs for K-12 students. According to a recent congressional study more than 35% of that money is being used for administrative costs.

“By simply moving the money from the federal level to the state level in the form of block grants we can get more money in the classroom,” Allard said. “This added money will allow local school districts new options to improve classroom resources, including the ability to buy new text books, hire more teachers, purchase new computers, and even improve current school buildings.”